



## Leptospirosis in the Asia Pacific region

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### Abstract:

Background: Leptospirosis is a worldwide zoonotic infection that has been recognized for decades, but the problem of the disease has not been fully addressed, particularly in resource-poor, developing countries, where the major burden of the disease occurs. This paper presents an overview of the current situation of leptospirosis in the region. It describes the current trends in the epidemiology of leptospirosis, the existing surveillance systems, and presents the existing prevention and control programs in the Asia Pacific region. Methods: Data on leptospirosis in each member country were sought from official national organizations, international public health organizations, online articles and the scientific literature. Papers were reviewed and relevant data were extracted. Results: Leptospirosis is highly prevalent in the Asia Pacific region. Infections in developed countries arise mainly from occupational exposure, travel to endemic areas, recreational activities, or importation of domestic and wild animals, whereas outbreaks in developing countries are most frequently related to normal daily activities, over-crowding, poor sanitation and climatic conditions. Conclusion: In the Asia Pacific region, predominantly in developing countries, leptospirosis is largely a water-borne disease. Unless interventions to minimize exposure are aggressively implemented, the current global climate change will further aggravate the extent of the disease problem. Although trends indicate successful control of leptospirosis in some areas, there is no clear evidence that the disease has decreased in the last decade. The efficiency of surveillance systems and data collection varies significantly among the countries and areas within the region, leading to incomplete information in some instances. Thus, an accurate reflection of the true burden of the disease remains unknown.

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### Resource Description

#### Early Warning System:

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

A focus of content

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Ecosystem Changes

#### Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Ocean/Coastal

#### Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

**Non-United States:** Asia, Australasia

**Asian Region/Country:** China, Other Asian Country

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**Other Asian Country:** The Maldives;Bangladesh;Nepal;Bhutan;Sri

Lanka;Thailand;Myanmar;Indonesia;Timor-Leste;Philippines;Japan;Korea;Malaysia;Vietnam;Cambodia;Laos;Mongolia

## **Health Impact:**

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease

**Infectious Disease:** Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Zoonotic Disease

**Foodborne/Waterborne Disease:** Leptospirosis

**Zoonotic Disease:** Other Zoonotic Disease

**Zoonotic Disease (other):** Leptospirosis

## **Intervention:**

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

## **Mitigation/Adaptation:**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

## **Population of Concern:**

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status, Workers

## **Resource Type:**

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

## **Timescale:**

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

## **Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:**

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content